

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Daniel J. Fisher

Serial No.: 10/821,068

Filed: April 8, 2004

Docket No.: M120.229.101 / 59692US002

Title: CONVERSION PAD WITH MOISTURE BARRIER

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please add claims 23 and 24 as follows:

1.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad for attaching an abrasive article to a back-up pad attached to a sanding tool, the conversion pad comprising:

- (a) a supporting layer comprising a backing material and a moisture barrier, arranged on at least a portion of said backing material, thereby to protect said backing material from moisture, wherein said backing material is flexible; and
- (b) a layer of attachment material affixed to said supporting layer for attaching the abrasive article to the conversion pad.

2.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said backing material is interposed between a pair of moisture barrier layers.

3.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said layer of backing material comprises vulcanized fiber board.

4.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said moisture barrier comprises at least one of polyurethane, wax, epoxy, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinyl butyral, polyethylene, latex, acrylic, enamel, and tar.

5.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said layer of attachment material comprises a layer of hook-type fasteners.

6.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 5, wherein said layer of hook-type fasteners is affixed to said backing material with a heat resistant hot melt adhesive.

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7.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad for attaching an abrasive article to a back-up pad attached to a sanding tool, the conversion pad comprising a supporting layer and a layer of attachment material arranged on said supporting layer, wherein said supporting layer comprises a backing comprising vulcanized fiber board.

8.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 7, wherein said supporting layer further comprises a moisture barrier arranged on at least a portion of said backing, thereby to protect said backing material from moisture

9.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 8, wherein said supporting layer is adhesively bonded with said attachment material with a heat resistant nylon hot melt adhesive.

10.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 9, wherein said supporting layer comprises a layer of backing material interposed between a pair of moisture-proof barrier layers, thereby to protect the backing from moisture.

11.(Original) A conversion pad as defined in claim 10, wherein said moisture-proof barrier layers comprise at least one of polyurethane, wax, epoxy, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinyl butyral, polyethylene, latex, acrylic, enamel, and tar.

12.(Previously Presented) The conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said moisture barrier comprises at least one of wax, epoxy, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinyl butyral, polyethylene, latex, acrylic, enamel, and tar.

13.(Previously Presented) The conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said conversion pad defines a second major surface opposite said layer of attachment material and configured for attachment to said back-up pad.

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14.(Previously Presented) The conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said moisture barrier is coated onto said backing material.

15.(Previously Presented) The conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said moisture barrier includes a moisture proof protective layer.

16.(Previously Presented) The conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said conversion pad is characterized by the absence of plate attachment holes extending there through.

17.(Previously Presented) The conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said backing material comprises vulcanized fiber board, and further wherein said moisture layer includes a first moisture proof layer coated onto a first major surface of said fiber board and a second moisture proof layer coated onto an opposed, second major surface of said fiber board, and even further wherein said conversion pad forms a back-up pad attachment surface opposite said layer of attachment material for attaching the conversion pad to a back-up pad.

18.(Cancelled)

19.(Cancelled)

20.(Previously Presented) The conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said backing material is entirely encapsulated by said moisture barrier.

21.(Previously Presented) A conversion pad for attaching an abrasive article to a back-up pad attached to a sanding tool, the conversion pad comprising:

- (a) a flexible supporting layer comprising a backing material entirely encapsulated within a moisture barrier coating, said backing material comprising vulcanized fiber board and said moisture barrier coating comprising polyurethane;

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- (b) a layer of attachment material for attaching the abrasive article to said conversion pad;  
and
- (c) a heat resistant nylon hot melt adhesive affixing said layer of attachment material to  
said supporting layer.

22.(Previously Presented) An attachment assembly for attaching an abrasive article to a sanding tool, the attachment assembly comprising:

- (a) a back-up pad for attachment to the sanding tool; and
- (b) a conversion pad for attaching the abrasive article to the back-up pad, said conversion pad comprising:
  - (i) a supporting layer comprising a flexible backing material and a moisture barrier arranged on at least a portion of said flexible backing material,
  - (ii) a layer of attachment material affixed to a major surface of said supporting layer for attaching the abrasive article to said conversion pad.

23.(New) The conversion pad as defined in claim 2, wherein a thickness of said backing material is greater than a thickness of either of said moisture barrier layers.

24.(New) The conversion pad as defined in claim 1, wherein said backing material is characterized as exhibiting warpage in the presence of water.